



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 27, 2010**

A public meeting of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission was convened and called to order by MMPC Chair Bill Myers at 5:30 PM, Tuesday, April 27, 2010 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order – Roll Call: Present at roll call were Chair Bill Myers, Commissioners Tom Barberic, Curt Cornum, and Elena Torre. Absent were Vice-Chair Steve Fleming, Commissioners Lina Bellenir, and Bob Sanders. Staff members present were Director, Mark Mayer, and Executive Assistant, Nancy Walter.

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ryman Garvey, student at Howard Gray School, apologized to the Commission for scratching a preserve plaque while on a field trip with his school. He offered to repair it or reimburse any costs for repair. Shari Carlsted, Principal of Howard Gray School, thanked the Commission for allowing Ryman to apologize and expressed her hope this incident has not damaged the relationship for the future.

AGENDA ITEM #2: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 23, 2010 JOINT COUNCIL/MMPC MEETING

Ms. Torre made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting, Mr. Barberic seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM #3: UPDATE ON PRESERVE FLIERS – KATIE DECKER, COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/MEDIA RELATIONS ADMINISTRATOR

Director Mayer said he spoke with Katie because the concealed gun permit law has recently changed; the flyers will be updated and distributed. The park signage also needs to be amended to reflect the new law. The free-range flyers were completed and put in the kiosks. Ms. Torre the second flyer will be completed once the Sonoran Conservancy and the MMPC finish scheduling the fall hikes. She will work with Katie this summer on the flyer. Ms. Torre also said she is the liaison between the Sonoran Conservancy and the MMPC; if anyone has ideas for hikes, please let her know. A current map and the free-range flyer should be placed in the kiosk in the parking lot in Eagle's Nest.

AGENDA ITEM #4: UPDATE FROM THE RESEARCH WORK GROUPS

- 1) McDowell Mountains State Trust Land - Chair Myers and Vice-Chair Fleming
- 2) Temporary Access to the Preserve - Commissioner Sanders
- 3) Public Awareness of the Preserve - Vice-Chair Fleming, Commissioners Cornum and Barberic

McDowell Mountains State Trust Land

Twin Peaks-The State Legislature will have the Growing Smarter funds on the November ballot; if it passes the Twin Peaks could possibly fall into another developer's hands. Chair Myers will contact Katie regarding the Town's position on item.

Temporary Access to the Preserve:

Chair Myers said he is not aware of any changes. There is preserve access from sunrise to sunset.

Public Awareness of the Preserve:

- Mr. Barberic said the “birdie hike” had 25 people in attendance; the only drawback was because there were so many in attendance it was difficult to hear the guide.
- It was estimated that four to six thousand people go up through Adero Canyon a year; should get information out that they are trespassing on someone’s private property.
- Mr. Cornum is working with Steve Fleming and Linda Raish on trail/biker bells showing trail safety and etiquette.

AGENDA ITEM #5: DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL/REPLACEMENT SIGNAGE FOR THE PRESERVE – CHAIR MYERS

- The signage was approved; 150 of the 175 signs were installed. The remaining 25 signs for the Western Trail could possibly be installed this summer.
- There are 7 helicopter pads, which have been cleared and are maintained by the Sonoran Conservancy, it would be appropriate to number them for easier identification. The pads will have GPS markers. Mayor Schlum suggested contacting the Sheriff’s Department to having a trial run with a helicopter.
- The Western Loop’s two trails, for bikers and hikers, have signage that need to be replaced. A bench sign also needs to be replaced.
- There are 12 additional signs needed for promotion and directions; GPS markers are included in the signage
- Bob is working on a Master map which will be given to emergency departments from Rio Verde, Scottsdale, and Fountain Hills.

AGENDA ITEM #6: UPDATE ON THE MARCH 4, 2010 JOINT MEETING OF THE MMPC/SCOTTSDALE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION – CHAIR MYERS

- Chair Myers, and Commissioners Cornum and Fleming attended the work-study program. Chair Myers presented a 6 page proposal for trail connectivity which includes two alternate trails to connect Fountain Hills’ 6 miles and Scottsdale’s 60 miles. (Attached) A summary of the meeting is attached.
- Ken Valverde is putting together an aerial map since it is difficult to see the MCO property lines.
- Scottsdale is a horse town and would like Fountain Hills’ trails open to horses; Fountain Hills’ ordinances don’t allow for horses.

AGENDA ITEM #7: UPDATE ON PRESERVE DEVELOPMENT – COMMISSIONER SANDERS

Ms. Torre distributes a flyer regarding procedures for the booth for the Fairs. (Attached) She asked for suggestions.

AGENDA ITEM #8: UPDATE ON EDUCATIONAL HIKE – COMMISSIONER TORRE

Some MMPC Commissioners and some Sonoran Conservancy Commissioners attended the Educational Hike and worked with the science teacher. The students learned about animals and plants in the preserve; the students also learned how to plot the land. Chair Myers will send detailed pictures of the damaged plaque to Director Mayer; he will get an estimate for repair.

The trampoline that was put on the Western Trail was removed.

AGENDA ITEM #9: UPDATE ON BUDGET PROCESS AND POTENTIAL USE OF DEVELOPMENT FEES AS IT PERTAINS TO THE PRESERVE – DIRECTOR MARK MAYER

- A portion of the money for the trailhead at the top of Adero canyon could possibly be re-appropriated for tools and ATVs, but it would need to be shown that those are growth items, which might be difficult to prove.

- No equipment or capital items were approved for this year; projects are being pushed back to the next fiscal year because there isn't money in the budget.
- The tool maintenance budget proposal is to split \$2000 for this year and \$2000 for next year; a tool box and some tools could be purchased each year.
- Sonoran Conservancy members used their own personal money to purchase tools and etc.; this amounts to \$3500 per year.
- Money for support for the two Fairs is in the budget.
- Planning for McDowell Mountain Month (October) will be on next month's agenda.

AGENDA ITEM #10: CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Torre made a motion to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. Mr. Barberic seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Next meeting: May 25, 2010

McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission

By: _____
Bill Myers, Chair

Reviewed by: _____
Mark C. Mayer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by: _____
Nancy Walter, Executive Assistant

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission Regular Meeting held on April 27, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: _____
Nancy Walter, Executive Assistant